regarding joint research in arid-zone agriculture, water management and evaluation of ground water resources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) India and USA have agreed in principle to undertake cooperative research projects for enhancement of productivity in arid-zone agriculture, water management and evaluation of groundwater resources. The details are yet to be worked out

Persons benefited under IRDP

87 SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons benefited under the Integrated Rural Development Programme so far during the current year; and

(b) what are the details of the benefits given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) 12.70 lakh families have been assisted under IRDP upto the end of September, 1987. The annual target under the programme is to assist 39.11 lakhs.

(b) Under IRDP assistance is given to the eligible families in the rural areas for taking up and viable project in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. The assistance is given by way of subsidy provided by the Government and the term credit mobilised by the financial institutions for taking up of the projects.

Holding of international children film festival

88 SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold International Film Festival in November, 1987; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) An International Children's Film Festival of India is being held by the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI), Bombay every alternate year in collaboration with different State Governments. This year such Festival will be held at Bhubaneshwar from November, 14 to November 23, 1987 by CFSI in collaboration with the Government of Orissa. The Festival aims, *inter alia* at promoting and encouraging the children film movement and fostering a close relationship among the international fraternity of children's film makers/organisations. There will be 3 sections in this Festival (1) Competition (2) Information (3) Market

Enquiry into starvation deaths in Orissa

89. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the starvation deaths in Kasipur block of Koraput and Kalahandi districts of Orissa;

(b) what are the findings of the enquiry; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The enquiries conducted by the State Government have revealed that there was no

starvation death in Koraput and Kalahandi districts of Orissa.

(c) The question does not arise.

Programme to supply potable water in rural areas

90 SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SSHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any programme to make adequate quantity of potable water available in rural areas and to ensure sustained availability of such water on long-term basis;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to identify the problems associated with the supply of potable water in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Supply of drinking water being a State subject, all rural water supply schemes are planned, formulated and implemented by State|UT Governments. However, to give an additional impetus to the efforts of the States, the Central Government is providing substantial financial assistance to States|UTs, under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). For providing suitable science and technology inputs for solution of the problems in rural water supply on a long-term basis in an integrated and cost-effective manner, a Technology Mission on Drinking Water and Related Water Management was launched in 1986 with an objective to cover all the residual problem villages with safe drinking water facilities.

(b) Under the ARWSP, grants-in-aid are being given to States and U.Ts on the basis of objective need based criteria. The objectives of the Technology Mission Programme are to evolve a cost effective technology mix for covering the residual uncovered problem villages with potable water supply at the rate of 40 litres per capita-per day within the constraint of the Seventh Plan financial allocations. This is being done through scientific source finding, improvement of traditional methods, improvement of materials and designs and maintenance methods, continuous monitoring and evaluation, implementation of computerized Management Information Systems, by increasing community involvement through voluntary agencies and village panchayats and by undertaking effective awareness campaigns. The focus is on 50 Mini Missions (Project Areas) where scientific and technology efforts are being concentrated in an integrated manner with the collaboration of agencies|departments such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Science and Technology, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Central Ground Water Board, concerned departments of the State Governments. The solutions evolved in Mini Missions are being incorporated in the on-going rural water supply programme and replicated in other parts of the country.

(c) Under the Technology Mission on Drinking Water, country-wide Sub-Missions have been started for identification and removal of problems associated with the supply of potable water in rural areas. These will focus on obtaining visible results in (i) Control of Brackishness (ii) Eradication of Guineaworm (iii) Removal of excess iron (iv) Control of Fluorisis and (v) Recharge of ground water aquifers. State Governments have already identified problem villages after undertaking extensive surveys.

Lapse of grants under rural development

91. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants given under the Rural Development Programme